

March 18, 2008

Obey IN ASHLAND TO SEE NEW FACILITY FOR USGS RESEARCH VESSEL KIYI

ASHLAND, WI - Seventh District Congressman Dave Obey (D-WI) was in Ashland today to see the new facility that is being constructed to berth the US Geological Survey (USGS) Research Vessel *Kiyi*. Obey secured nearly \$500,000 in federal funds last year to help complete the new dock.

"The *Kiyi* plays an important role in helping us better understand the Great Lakes, and it's only proper that we ensure that the *Kiyi* has the facilities it needs near the Lake Superior Biological Research Station that it supports," said Obey. "So I'm glad we were able to secure the funds to help build this new facility and I'm happy to be here today to see it first hand."

The new dock, which is situated on land donated by the city of Ashland at the Eastern edge of Kreher Park, is intended to provide the *Kiyi* with a safe and secure harbor and berthing, and access to existing sewer and water resources.

The *Kiyi* is the Great Lakes Science Center's largest research vessel at 107 feet long. It is also the Center's newest research vessel, built with funding secured by Obey to replace an older, ill-suited vessel and commissioned in April, 2000.

It conducts fish stock assessment, fisheries research and habitat monitoring in cooperation with state, federal, tribal and university partners through the Lake Superior Technical Committee of the Great Lakes Fishery.

#